

PROGRAMS
YOU CAN USE

LOCATED AT 9801 PENN AVENUE SOUTH, CREEKSIDE Community Center houses the Human Services’ Senior Program. For information, call the Human Services Information Line at 952-563-4957 V/TTY.

FREE TAX PREPARATION
ASSISTANCE

FREE INCOME TAX assistance is available at Creekside on a first-come, first-served basis to individuals who meet income-qualifying guidelines. Tax assistance includes the following programs:



ACCOUNTABILITY MINNESOTA

IN PARTNERSHIP WITH FAMILINK-BLOOMINGTON, AccountAbility Minnesota will provide tax assistance to individuals with incomes of \$25,000 or less, and families with incomes of \$35,000 or less.

When: Mondays, February 7 - April 11
(except February 21).
Tuesdays, February 1 - April 12.
Time: 6 - 9 p.m.
When: Saturdays, February 5 - April 9.
Time: 9 a.m. - noon.

AARP Tax-Aide

IN PARTNERSHIP WITH THE CITY OF BLOOMINGTON, AARP Tax-Aide will provide free tax preparation services to middle- and low-income taxpayers, with special attention to those age 60 and older. The AARP Tax-Aide program prepares personal income tax returns including the 1040, 1040A and 1040EZ. Taxpayers with complex tax returns are advised to seek paid tax assistance.

When: Wednesdays and Thursdays,
February 2 - April 14.
Time: 9 a.m. - noon.

TAX FORMS AVAILABLE AT CREEKSIDE
Federal tax forms that can be photocopied are available at Creekside.

WANTED:
YOUR OLD CELL PHONE

TELECOM PIONEERS, A GROUP OF VOLUNTEERS FROM Qwest, will clear all pre-programmed numbers and refurbish your donated cell phone to make it 911 accessible for older adults and individuals with medical conditions or disabilities. Drop off cell phones in working order, including the wall chargers, at Creekside. Cell phones will be distributed on Saturday, March 12. Bloomington residents who do not own cell phones, and are ages 55 or older or have medical conditions or disabilities, are eligible to register for free cell phones refurbished to access 911 exclusively. For more information, call the Information Line.

FAMILINK RESOURCE CENTER
YOUR BRIDGE TO COMMUNITY RESOURCES

QUESTIONS RELATED TO LEGAL ISSUES, HOUSING options, financial assistance, counseling or other issues? FamLink Resource Center’s trained staff can connect you to community resources and services. Call 952-884-0444 or visit Creekside, Monday - Friday, from 8 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

HEALTH UPDATES



EMERGENCY AND
COMMUNITY HEALTH
OUTREACH (ECHO)
TELEVISION PROGRAMS THAT
SERVE MANY CULTURES

ECHO TV IS A NEW TELEVISION PROGRAM that offers public health advisories and emergency alerts in six languages, and allows people to get information about their health in ways that respect their culture. The program reaches viewers who speak Hmong, Khmer, Lao, Somali, Spanish and Vietnamese and airs on Twin Cities Public Television Channel 17. For a schedule of topics, visit www.ci.bloomington.mn.us, keyword: ECHO, or call 952-563-8904.

EMERGENCY RESPONSE
LOCAL HEALTH PROFESSIONALS
NEEDED AS VOLUNTEERS

THE MEDICAL RESERVE CORPS MOBILIZES and coordinates local volunteers to respond to emergencies. Volunteer health professionals in Hennepin County are currently being recruited to assist public health and medical staff in the event of a major medical emergency, natural disaster, public health crisis or a mass vaccination clinic. Duties could include answering hotline calls, dispensing antibiotics, giving vaccinations and providing medical care. For more information, call the Medical Reserve Corps at 952-351-5234 or visit www.mrc-hennepin.org.

SMOKE-FREE WORKPLACES
PHASE II EFFECTIVE NEXT MONTH

TO ENSURE A SMOKE-FREE ENVIRONMENT FOR BLOOMINGTON employees and customers, the City Council passed a smoke-free workplace ordinance last July. Phase one of the ordinance was effective September 1, 2004, and included most workplaces and public places. Phase two of the smoking ban takes effect on March 31, 2005, and includes establishments with on-sale liquor, wine or 3.2 beer licenses or permits, or charitable gambling licenses or permits. Hennepin County’s smoking ban also takes effect on March 31 and includes restaurants, bars and other places that serve food.

The ordinance prohibits smoking in indoor public places and workplaces and within 25 feet of entrances, exits, open windows and ventilation intakes to public places and workplaces. It also requires that at least one-half of the seating capacity of outdoor restaurant patios be designated as non-smoking areas.

Smoking in private residences, motor vehicles, designated hotel-motel sleeping rooms, and during Indian spiritual rituals or cultural ceremonies is allowed under state law and is not affected by the City’s ordinance.

For information, visit www.ci.bloomington.mn.us, keywords: Smoking ordinance, or call Karen Zeleznak at 952-563-8900.

COVER YOUR COUGH
TIPS FOR STAYING HEALTHY



EVEN IF YOU WERE UNABLE TO GET A FLU shot, there are other preventative steps you can take to stay healthy this season.

- Cover your nose and mouth with a tissue when you cough or sneeze and dispose of the tissue.
- Cough or sneeze into your sleeve if you don’t have a tissue.
- Clean your hands with soap and warm water or an alcohol-based hand cleaner.
- With a household cleaner, regularly clean surfaces that are touched or handled frequently including doorknobs, water faucets, refrigerator handles and telephones.
- If you get the flu, or any respiratory illness, avoid exposing others. Stay home from work or school.
- Eat right, get plenty of rest and exercise.
- Ask your doctor about the pneumococcal pneumonia vaccination – a common and potentially serious complication of the flu – especially if you’re age 65 or older.

COMMUNITY EVENTS



VALENTINE
TEA AND STORYTIME
ALL AGES INVITED

INVITE YOUR CHILDREN, GRANDCHILDREN, friends and neighbors or come on your own to a special event celebrating families and love. Enjoy tea, juice and refreshments. Human Services and Oxboro Library sponsor this free event.

When: Saturday, February 12.
Time: 10:30 a.m.
Location: Oxboro Library,
8801 Portland Ave. S.

TASTE OF JAPAN
AN EVENING OF JAPANESE CULTURE

JOIN THE BLOOMINGTON SISTER CITY ORGANIZATION FOR AN EVENING of food, fun and festivities that will include stories of travel to Izumi City, Japan, cultural interactive activities, a silent auction, entertainment and a Japanese dinner. Taste of Japan will be held on Saturday, March 12, from 4 - 9 p.m. at Bloomington Civic Plaza, 1800 West Old Shakopee Road. For more information, call 952-563-8735; 952-563-8740 TTY.

